



Attorney General Jon Bruning

# NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Leah Bucco-White  
402-471-2067

[Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov](mailto:Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov)

## **Attorney General Bruning and 38 States Reach \$12 Million Settlement With Toy Maker Resolving Lead Paint Investigation**

**Note: A sound bite on this topic is available at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>**

(Lincoln, Neb) Attorney General Bruning along with the Attorneys General of 38 other states today reached a settlement agreement with Mattel, Inc. and Fisher-Price, Inc., its subsidiary. The agreement resolves a 16-month investigation into the events that resulted in a voluntary recall of the company's toys for excessive lead paint levels during 2007. The agreement, filed today in Lancaster County court, requires Mattel to make a payment of \$12 million by January 30, 2009, which will be divided among participating states. Nebraska's share of the settlement is \$204,000 which will be distributed to non-profit organizations within the state.

"Protecting Nebraska's children is always a top priority, and it's important that the toys they're playing with are safe," said Bruning.

From August 2 through October 25 of 2007, the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recalled approximately two million Mattel and Fisher-Price toys manufactured in China, alleging that the toys contained excessive lead in surface coatings. At the time of the recalls, the CPSC standard permitted for lead was 600 parts per million (ppm). The states' investigation uncovered that levels from the surface coatings of the recalled toys not only exceeded the federal standard, but in some instances, tested over 10,000 ppm and 50,000 ppm.

The agreement reached by the Attorneys General includes more stringent standards for lead in surface coatings, effective for toys manufactured after November 30, 2008.

Since the Attorneys General first contacted Mattel in August 2007, Congress has enacted the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) which also provides stricter standards for lead in surface coatings, starting in February 2009. Mattel has agreed to phase in the standards ahead of time. Mattel will also notify the Attorneys General if it confirms excessive lead in any of its products in violation of state or federal law, or the Consent Judgment, and will work with the Attorneys General to fix those violations.

The states were led by an Executive Committee, consisting of Assistant Attorneys General in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Vermont. California also took part in negotiations, reaching a separate agreement under its Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act.

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